

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computing system including an email system connected to an email network using the SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) protocol, the computing system comprising: ~~(a) an additional~~ extended alternate recipient parameter in the SMTP protocol ~~to specify~~ within a self-rerouting email message that specifies alternate recipients ~~of an email message~~ to be used in case the email system cannot deliver the self-rerouting email message to an original recipient, and ~~to deliver the message~~ to automatically attempt to forward the self-rerouting email message to the alternate recipients in case the self-rerouting email message cannot be delivered to the original recipient.

2. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1 wherein the extended alternate recipient parameter is an ARCPT (Alternate Recipient) parameter in said SMTP protocol.

3. ~~(Cancelled) A system as in claim wherein the ARCPT parameter is an extension to the SMTP protocol, the ARCPT parameter to automatically forward the message to the alternate recipients in case of inability to deliver to original recipients.~~

1 4. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~2~~ wherein the ARCPT 1 wherein the
2 extended alternative recipient parameter within the self-rerouting email
3 message can also be used by the recipient or the system administrator of the
4 recipient server to forward ~~emails~~ email messages to another address and
5 the alternate recipient on the recipient server shall hold priority over the one
6 already in the email specified by the sender.

1 5. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1 further comprising:
2 ~~— (a) —~~ a second extended alternate keyword to an SMTP protocol NOTIFY
3 parameter for the sender to specify notification by said email system of
4 successful delivery to the alternate recipients on failure to deliver to the
5 original recipient, and to notify the sender based on the delivery of the
6 self-rerouting email message to the alternate recipients.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 5 wherein the second extended
2 alternate keyword is ~~an~~ ALTERNATE keyword, and in the SMTP ~~parameter is~~
3 ~~the~~ NOTIFY parameter.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 5 wherein the second extended
2 alternate keyword is an extension of the SMTP ~~server~~ protocol NOTIFY
3 parameter to include sending ~~an~~ a second email message to the sender in case of
4 non-delivery of the self-rerouting email message to the alternate recipients.

1 8. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 5 wherein ~~said extended SMTP~~
2 ~~protocol includes:~~

- 3 ~~(a) ARCPT parameter for specifying alternate recipients, and~~
4 ~~(b) ALTERNATE keyword in the NOTIFY parameter; the second extended~~
5 alternate keyword is an extension of the SMTP protocol NOTIFY
6 parameter to specify notification in case of delivery to alternate
7 recipients.

1 9. (Currently Amended) In a computing system including an email system
2 connected to an email network using the SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)
3 protocol, a method for specifying alternate email recipients comprising:

- 4 ~~(a)~~ providing an ~~additional~~ extended alternate recipient parameter in the
5 SMTP protocol that makes an email message a self-rerouting email
6 message that specifies alternate recipients ~~by the sender of an email~~
7 ~~message~~ to be used in case the ~~mail~~ email system cannot deliver the self-
8 rerouting email message to the original recipient and ~~delivering~~
9 attempting to deliver the self re-routing email message to the specified
10 alternate recipients ~~by the email system~~ in case it the email system is
11 unable to deliver to the original recipient.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9 wherein the ~~additional~~ extended
alternate recipient parameter in the SMTP protocol ~~specifying the alternate~~
~~recipient~~ within the self-rerouting email message is an ARCPT (Alternate
 Recipient) parameter.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9 wherein the step of ~~delivering the~~
attempting to deliver the self-rerouting email message further comprises
 automatic forwarding the self-rerouting email message to the alternate
 recipients in case of inability to deliver to the original recipient.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 10, wherein the step of providing an
~~additional~~ extended alternative recipient parameter in the SMTP protocol within
the self-rerouting email message further comprises the alternate recipient on
 the recipient server having priority over ~~the~~ the original recipient specified by
 the sender.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9 further comprising:
 (a) specifying notification by said email system of the successful delivery to
 the alternate recipients on failure to deliver to the original recipient, ~~and~~
or
 (b) notifying the sender by the email system of the non-delivery of the
 message to the alternate recipients.

1 14. (Previously Amended) A method as in claim 13 wherein the step of providing
2 notification is specifying an ALTERNATE extension to the NOTIFY parameter.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 13 wherein the step of notifying the
2 sender by the email system of the non-delivery of the self-rerouting message to
3 the alternate recipients further comprises sending an second email message to
4 the sender in case of non-delivery of the self-rerouting message to the
5 alternate recipients.

1 16. (Cancelled) ~~A method as in claim 13 further comprising:~~
2 ~~— (a) — extending the SMTP protocol with an ARCPT keyword for specifying~~
3 ~~alternate recipients;~~
4 ~~— (b) — extending the SMTP protocol with an ALTERNATE keyword in the~~
5 ~~NOTIFY parameter, for specifying notification in case of delivery to~~
6 ~~alternate recipients.~~

1 17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising computer
2 readable program code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied
3 therein for causing a computer to send email to alternate email recipients in case
4 of inability to deliver to an original recipient comprising:

5 ———(a)——— computer readable program code configured for extending the SMTP
6 protocol within an email message to enable the sender to specify
7 alternate recipients of ~~an~~ the email message to be used in case the mail
8 system cannot deliver the email message to the original recipient thereby
9 making the email message a self-rerouting email message, and to cause
10 the ~~said~~ mail system to attempt to deliver the self-rerouting
11 email message to the specified alternate recipients in case it is unable to
12 deliver to the original recipient.

1 18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 17 wherein said
2 computer readable program code configured for extending the SMTP protocol
3 within the self-rerouting email message ~~is specifying the alternate recipient~~ is
4 an ARCPT (Alternate Recipient) parameter in said SMTP protocol.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 17 wherein said
2 computer readable program code configured for extending the SMTP protocol
3 thereby causing the mail system to attempt to deliver the self-rerouting email
4 message to the specified alternate recipients further comprises automatic
5 forwarding the self-rerouting email message to the alternate recipients in case
6 of not delivering to original recipients.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 18 wherein said computer readable program code configured for extending the SMTP protocol by the addition of the ARCPT parameter enables the recipient or system administrator of a server of the recipient to forward email messages to another address with the alternate recipient on the server of the recipient holding priority over the recipient in the self-rerouting email specified by the sender.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 17 further comprising:

~~—(a)—~~ computer readable program code configured to extend the SMTP protocol to enable the sender to specify notification by said mail system of a successful delivery to the alternate recipients on failure to deliver to the original recipient, and to cause said mail system to notify the sender based on the non-delivery of the self-rerouting email message to the alternate recipients.

22. (Previously Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 21 wherein said computer readable program code configured for specifying the notification is by addition of ALTERNATE keyword to the NOTIFY parameter.

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Patent

1 23. (Cancelled) ~~A computer program product as claimed in claim 21 wherein said~~
2 ~~computer readable program code is an extension of the SMTP server to send an~~
3 ~~email message to the sender in case of non delivery of the message to the~~
4 ~~alternate recipients.~~

1 24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim ~~21~~ 18
2 further comprising computer readable program code that extends the SMTP
3 protocol with :-

4 ~~— (a) —~~ ~~ARCPT keyword for specifying alternate recipients,~~

5 ~~— (b) —~~ an ALTERNATE keyword in the NOTIFY parameter, for specifying
6 notification in case of delivery to alternate recipients.